

**HELPING HANDS UNIVERSITY PARK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES, JULY 27, 2021**

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 5:30

PRESENT: Loretta Saks, Bob Saks, Linda Verrill, Debby Rosenfelt, Mary Gathercole, Peg Smith

1. Minutes of May 2021 and corrected minutes of June 22 were approved.
2. Mary Gathercole was introduced. She will be our new liaison from the University Park Town Council.
3. A review of HHUP background, activities, and structure, including the relation to Route One Villages and Corridor Conversations, was conducted for the benefit of Mary Gathercole and Debby Rosenfelt.
4. Linda Verrill will be HHUP's new Chair. Debby Rosenfelt will serve as Secretary.
5. Currently, HHUP has 53-54 member units, with about 60 individuals as members.
6. We discussed the status of individuals moving out of University Park who wish to remain members. Generally, if their move is very close, e.g. within a mile of UP boundaries, we think that they can remain as informal affiliate members and receive some of the benefits of membership, to be decided on an individual basis.
7. Loretta explained our connection to the Jewish Council on Aging and the Jewish Rides data base. There are 20-30 people from UP in their rides database. JCA helps with marketing, public relations, and design. The organization receives grants from the Council on Governments, and pays for magnets, brochures, and signs. At the moment, Loretta Saks and Linda Verrill have the capacity to enter new members in the data base, access it, and manage requests for volunteers. Few of our members request help, but some request a lot of help, though we lost several of our heavy database users this past year. Someone needs to attend quarterly meetings.
8. Linda Verrill explained that University Park provides \$5000.00 annually to HHUP. We typically do not use the full amount. We received \$5000 under the Cares Act that went to the Temporary Assistance fund. In all, we have received three requests. They have been reviewed by the Chair and the Council liaison/treasurer. The fund now has \$10,500, thanks to grants secured by Linda Verrill. No one person may receive more than 1/5 of the balance. Loretta Saks will continue to assist people in accessing funds and programs, important given her background in social work.
9. We reviewed social gatherings.
 - a. The July 18 gathering at Linda Verrill's was a great success, with about 50 people in attendance. Funds were expended for a harpist and a server.
 - b. The July 21 HHUP lunch took place at Riviera Tapas, with over 20 attendees. Riviera Tapas turned the restaurant over to us, and is willing to seat people at small tables and bring individual receipts. Many of our members want individual receipts, and most restaurants will not provide them for large groups. We decided to meet there again in August. (Post-meeting note: that gathering has now been cancelled due to the Delta Variant surge and August travels.) Mary Love will no longer be in charge of locating restaurants.

- c. The Poetry Group is scheduled to meet in September, and the Spanish Conversation group continues to meet regularly, with 6 participants, including facilitator Edda Osborne.
 - d. Corridor Conversations are set through October.
10. Additional transitions and continuities in leadership
- a. Village Rides provides training for volunteers. In the past, Loretta has coordinated rides and volunteers. Linda Verrill will now be in contact and assume responsibility
 - b. Membership: In the past, Mary Love and Loretta were the membership committee. This entails calling new and potential members and talking about HHUP, and can include social visits. Going forward, we do need recruitment of younger seniors.
 - c. Peggy Smith has done the newspaper column for the University Park Newsletter. She is willing to continue.
 - d. Loretta Saks is willing to continue to maintain our website and Facebook page.
 - e. Our calendar is maintained through Google. We should get in the habit of using it. HHUP also has a Google dropbox, and all our materials are there.
 - f. Mary Love sends birthday cards for HHUP members. She will need an updated list including new members.
 - g. Agendas and minutes are forwarded to the town website by the chair and secretary, respectively.
 - h. There has been a Program Committee in the past (Mary Love, Loretta, Katherine Forbes, Judy Marwell and Sabrina Meyers). Possible members going forward: Jane Horvath, Catherine Forbes, and Judy Marwa.
 - i. We would like to continue our partnership with Clarice Smith for afternoon concerts and receptions with artists afterwards. Loretta Saks will get the name of her contact at the Clarice to Linda Verrill. [Jane Hirschberg - janeh22@umd.edu]
11. Treasurer's Report: our only expenses in this cycle were for the July 18 party.
12. Our next meeting will be Tuesday August 24th, at 5:30, ideally with a shortened meeting time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Rosenfelt, Secretary

Approved by HHUP Committee 8-24-21